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NATIONAL HYMNS AND PRAYERS



HYMNS AND PRAYERS

FOR USE IN

THE NATIONAL CHURCH

OF

NIGERIA AND THE CAMEROONS



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CONFESSION

(All Standing After Song)

1. When a weak minded nation turneth away from the fear of their oppressors and suppressors, and vehemently doeth that which is lawful and right, against the imperialistic domination, and inhumanity of man to man; they will obtain liberty and freedom; and thereby save themselves from spiritual bondage, commercial slavery, economic starvation. They will also be called a free nation with authority, wisdom and power.

2. If we say that we have no power we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess the power in us, that power is faithful and just to arise, and cleanse us from all inhumanity of man to man.

3. Repent now, those who are quisillers, back-bitters, men of double face, those whose tongues are worse than double edged swords, traitors, men who are dead but are living. Return now; for the Kingdom of God of Africa is at hand.

4. Dearly beloved Africans, you have seen with your own eyes, that our cause is just, victory is certain, though it needs a great sacrifice and support, spiritually, mentally and materially. For liberty and freedom will not descend to a people; a people must raise themselves to liberty and freedom. It is a blessing that must be earned before it is enjoyed, therefore, it is our duty to call upon the God of Africa, to infuse into the minds of every nation, to refrain from any threats or acts, direct or indirect, aimed at impairing the freedom, independence or integrity of any nation or at fomenting civil strife and subverting the will of the people in any state. Although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our Power before God: yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to invoke and praise the God of our ancestors' to give him thanks, and to ask those things which are necessary for the glory of Africans and the world in general. Let us pray — Saying after me.

J. N. B. Egbueh

PRAYER AFTER CONFESSION

(All Kneeling Down)

O God of Africa — Thou Most Mighty and Powerful, God of our ancestors, we Thy children of Black Mantle do invoke Thy Holy Name particularly in Nigeria and Cameroons, the cradle of African power.

Rise like pillar of fire before us, and walk before us, leading us to the canopy of salvation. We beseech Thee O Thou Existence of all Existence, Thou presence of all presence. Thou Mysterious unknown substance, thou Father and Mother, of the Invisible and visible universe. — Come in full force, — descend with all thy gracious power on us, pour thy mysterious spirit in us, so that our consciousness, may grow and unfold in realisation of our true selves which is one with thee.

Draw the souls and minds of the Africans both male and female poor and rich, weak and strong, visible and invisible, to unite together in washing away the shame placed on us by foreigners in our home.

Make our men and women to be rich in all their works — particularly our women to be fruitful and bring forth good seeds Give us wisdom, love and power to re-establish the Kingdom of Black race for ever and ever Amen.

J. N. B. Egbutcheh.

OUR DESIRE IS FREEDOM.

(Tune: O God Our Help in Ages Past).

1. O God help us in freedom race,
And give us courage too;
Help us to win our mother-land,
From wicked detractors.
2. Under the shadow of Thy throne,
Thy creatures dwell secure,
Grant that we live in harmony
When our freedom is won. *Amen.*

(Wachuku Abengowe)

STONE WALLS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE.

(Tune: What a friend we have in Jesus).

1. What a fright to think of prison.
It does take away reason
Some do give away a fortune
To ward off that pleasant school.
It's a mirror to see one's self
And to dedicate one's self;
If afore thou didst not know God.
Prison draws thee near thy God.
2. When for Niger we are punished
God will be our Comforter
All our fight is for one Niger
Though against Imperialists,
We must fight the common battle
And support all our leaders
Whatever may be the result
All we want is free Niger. *Amen.*

(Wachuku Abengowe)

ALIEN RULE MUST GO !

(Tune : God Moves In A Mysterious Way).

1. God save us from this alien rule
And help us stand alone
Life for your children is bitter
Under this foreign rule.
2. God grant us grace to battle on
Till freedom we have won ;
How can God's children be enslaved
By those who feign to rule ? *Amen.*
(Wachuku Abengowe)

CHARITY.

(Tune : God Moves In A Mysterious Way).

1. My life has been a joy to me,
No matter where I go ;
I've learned to live in harmony,
With kindly friend or foe.
2. What though the adder stalks the way,
At me to pounce with greed,
Its frame howbeit will decay,
To vilify its deed.
3. For life must roll, and men must sway,
Like atoms of the air ;
And live we must, from day to day,
To dodge the devil's lair.
4. But life has been a joy to me,
No matter where I go ;
I've learned to live in harmony,
With kindly friend or foe. *Amen.*
(Nnamdi Azikiwe)

LAND OF THE FREE.

(Tune: Through The Love Of God Our Saviour.)

1. O Land of our great fore-fathers,
 Land of the free,
 Freedom shall come to thee once more,
 Land of the free,
 When we fight out thy salvation,
 And we shall come to enjoy thee,
 O Land of our great fore-fathers,
 Land of the free.
2. This day thou art in great bondage,
 Land of the free,
 Due to claws of foreign rulers,
 Land of the free,
 What a sin to leave thee suffering,
 In the hands of foreign people,
 All we need to do is hit hard,
 Land of the free.
3. Time has come for us to save thee,
 Land of the free,
 This is the time to be proud of thee,
 Land of the free,
 All the while we have been sleeping,
 Now we realise our position,
 We are bound to be free or die,
 Land of the free. *Amen.*

(Wachuku Abengowe)

ONWARD TO FREEDOM.

(Tune: Christ our corner Stone.)

1. Compatriots let us go forth,
Onward to win freedom,
How can we fold our arms,
And watch Nigeria gone,
Our children will be in bondage,
If we do not deal our death blows.
2. This a time for action,
Let's form a strong unit,
To oppose the imperialists,
And all their bad designs,
We must show them we're stonger baked,
By fighting out, Our salvation.
3. How can we hope to have peace,
When liberty is not,
Is that not a vain hope,
In this liberty world?
Onward to freedom we must match,
How rough the way, we're bound to win.
Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

BEHOLD THE WAY.

(Tune: What can wash away my stain?)

1. How can our freedom be won?
By unarmed civil refusal,
How can our freedom be won?
By eradicating evils.

Chorus:— God give us grace to bear,
And push forth the struggle,
Give us courage to bear,
Our desire is free Nigeria.

2. We should not accept back seat,
In our political struggle,
Let us hit the direct below,
Against all who daily fool us.
3. If we know a thing is wrong,
We must fight a way to stop it,
Never mind the consequence,
It is a glory to our name. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

8

GIVE COURAGE TO OUR LEADERS.

(Tune: *How Sweet The Name Of Jesus*).

1. God of Afric be Thou our guide,
In this our freedom race,
May all our hopes of liberty,
Materialise on earth.
2. Give courage to all our leaders,
To lead us to the goal,
May it please Thee to reinforce them,
And give them wisdom too.
3. God of Afric this is Your time,
To lead and command us,
All we are fighting is to find,
Liberty, in our day. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

A LAMENTATION !

(Tune: Great God, The Nation Of The Earth.)

1. My heart laments,
To see Thee gone,
My loved Nigeria,
My eyes are sore,
Due to oppressions.
Imposed by detractors.
2. Shall we remain perpetual serfs,
Due to no fault of ours,
Our lives as human beings are poor,
Due to British Slavery.
3. Our land is gone,
Our wealth is gone,
In exchange for Bible,
For eight-seven tedious years,
We have been in bondage. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

GOD OF AFRICA JUDGE !

(Tune: Immortal Invisible God Only Wise.)

1. All efforts to free selves,
Are regarded as bad,
Speech freedom has been locked,
With new sedition law,
God of Africa judge,
What we're doing with alliens,
When will this blest country,
Be salvaged from slavery

2, Nigeria has become,
A state of police rule,
All good things are curbed down,
By the enforcement of force,
God of Africa judge,
What we 've done to aliens.
All good things in Nigeria,
Are drained by foreigners.

3. When will liberty an' peace,
Rule supreme in our land,
We must all fight for it,
Though it costs us our lives,
In this civic duty,
All must join hands and fight,
Till freedom we have won,
And liberty be ours. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

II

LAND OF OUR BIRTH.

- 1, Land of our birth, we pledge to Thee,
Our love and toil in years to be,
When we are grown and take our place,
As men and women of our race.
2. Teach us to rule ourselves always,
Controlled and cleanly night and day;
That we may bring if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.
3. The human will that force unseen,
The offspring of a deathless soul,
Can hew the way to any goal,
Though walls of granite intervene.

4. Land of our birth, our faith, our pride,
For whose dear sake our fathers died;
O Nigeria, we pledge to Thee,
Head, heart and hand through years to be
Amen.

(Rudyard Kipling.)

12

HOPE

(Tune:— *Glory To Thee, My God, This Night.*)

1. These things shall be: a loftier race,
Than e'er the world hath known shall rise,
With flame of freedom in their souls,
And light of knowledge in their eyes.
2. Nation with nation, land with land,
In armed shall live as comrades free,
In every heart and brain shall throb,
The pulse of one fraternity.
3. Man shall love man, with heart as pure,
And fervent as the young-eyed throng,
Who chant their heavenly psalms before,
God's face with undiscordant song.
4. New art shall bloom of loftier mould,
And mightier music thrill the skies,
And every light shall be a song,
When all the earth is paradise. A-men

(John Addington Symonds.)

STRUGGLE.

(Tune:— *Sun Of My Soul Thou Saviour Dear.*)

1. A friendless warfare! lingering long,
Through weary day and weary year,
A wild and many-weaponed throng,
Hang on thy front and flank and rear,
2. Yet nerve thy spirit to the proof,
And blench not at Thy chosen lot,
The timid good may stand aloof,
The sage may frown, — yet faint thou not.
3. Truth crushed to earth, shall rise again,
Th' eternal years of God are hers;
But error wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies among his worshippers.
4. Yea, though thou lie upon the dust,
When they who helped thee flee in fear,
Die full of hope and manly trust,
Like those who fell in battle here,
5. Another hand thy sword shall wield,
Another hand the standard wave,
Till from the trumpet's mouth is pealed,
The blast of triumph o'er thy grave. A-men.

(William Cullen Bryant.)

NATIONALISM.

(Tune:— *Fight The Good With All Thy Might.*)

1. Our country's welfare comes foremost,
Who promotes that, best proves his love;
But he who shrinks and fears to act,
Has no love for our motherland.

2. Nigeria needs our love and strength,
At this time of her servitude,
Why must we let our motherland,
Fall victim to alien slavery ?
3. Our land, our hope, our pride and joy,
We'll surrender to all your choice,
Liberty, freedom in our land,
Then peace shall reign eternally.
4. Cast care aside, labour for 'dom,
Of Nigeria! and of mankind,
Only believe and push ahead,
For the dear country of our birth. Amen.
(Wachuku Abengowe.)

15

PRAYER

(*Lead, Kindly Light, Amid The.....*)

1. Lead us along, thou God of Africa,
Lead thou us through,
The path is fierce, and full of many thorns,
Lead thou us through,
Keep thou our feet, away from ill-wishers,
Within and out,
Till success we have won.
2. This is the time, to heed to all our prayers,
Lead thou us through,
Give us the zeal, to follow thy guidance,
Lead thou us through,
Let all our prayers, be like a sacrifice,
Received by Thee,
For our dear motherland.

3. For life and joy, we cling and hope on you,
Lead thou us through,
Our life is poor, due to our foreigners,
Lead thou us through,
May we push forth, the national struggle,
Till all our hopes, materialise on earth.
Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe.)

16

BE OUR GUIDE

Tune: O God Of Bethel, By Whose Hands.....)

1. God of Africa by whose hands,
Our fathers were not slaves,
Who through their dark-aged pilgrimage,
Hast all our fathers led.
2. Our vows, our pray'rs, we now present,
Before thy blessed earth;
God of Africa, be the God,
Of our succeeding race.
3. Through each perplexing path of life,
Our hunted foot steps guide
Give us each day a vision clear,
And solution provide.
4. Oh spread the love for all mankind,
Our humble prayers implore,
May all our present hardships cease,
And yield to eternal joy. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe.)

17

FREEDOM CALL

(Tune: *Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious.*)

1. Come, thou long-expected Freedom,
Born to set all mankind free,
From our tears and pains release us,
Let us be free ever-more.
 2. Africa's hope of a free dawn,
Hope of all mankind thou art,
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every loving heart.
 3. Born, Africa to deliver:
Oh thou Freedom of mankind,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
 4. Come, thou long-expected Freedom,
Rule in all mankind alike,
By thy all-sufficient merit,
May we enjoy liberty. Amen.
- (Wachuku Abengowe.)

18

A FREE COUNTRY

(Tune: *Thy Kingdom Come O God.*)

1. We want a free Country,
Where fear will not prevail,
We want unsuppressed speech,
In our own mother-land
2. When comes the promised time,
That freedom we shall have,
And lust, oppression, crime,
Shall flee from all our shores?

3. Let harmony prevail,
In this God-given land,
Grant to evil seekers,
Wisdom to love goodness.
 4. Freedom is our watch-word,
Freedom from fear and want,
Freedom to worship God,
According to our will. Amen.
- (Wachuku Abengowe)

19

SONG OF JOY

(Tune:— *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun.*)

1. O sing unto the God of love,
Who has done wondrous things for us,
Let all our songs of joy and peace,
Be unto God eternity.
 2. His bounteous love we have enjoyed,
His bounteous grace we have received,
Let all our songs proclaim with joy,
God made us all and God is good.
 3. People and realms of every tongue,
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim,
Their early blessings on his name.
 4. Great God of all the universe,
Accept the joyful songs we raise,
Let all our struggles for freedom,
Be sponsored by Thy powerful hand. Amen.
- (Wachuku Abengowe)

INVICTUS

(Tune:— *Father Of Heaven Whose Love Profound.*)

1. Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.
2. In the fell cluth of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud,
Under the bludgeonings of chance,
My head is bloody, but unbowed.
3. Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find, me unafraid.
4. It matters not how straight the gate,
How charged the punishment the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul. Amen

(William Ernest Henley)

SPIRITUAL REDEMPTION.

(Tune:— *Rock Of Ages Cleft For Me.*)

1. God of Africa to thee
We pledge the National Church,
Let thy mercy fall on her,
To push forth spirit struggle,
And redeem us from bondage,
Caused by foreign religion.

2. Not the labours of our hands,
Can redeem our dear Country,
Not the strength of all our power,
Nor bayonet can redeem,
Our land from imperial rule,
But with thee, we must succeed.
3. Nothing we have to present,
Simply to thy grace we cling,
We are thirsty of freedom,
To worship thee as we like,
Helpless look to thee for grace,
Strengthen the National Church.
4. When we draw a fleeting breath,
When our eye-lids close in death,
May we go quite satisfied,
That our children are secure,
May we die as bold heroes,
For our Country and mankind. A-men.
(Wachuku Abengowe)

22

SHOW THE LIGHT

(*Tune:— Oh For A Closer With God*)

1. God of liberty give us peace
A calm and heavenly frame;
Give us light to show us the way,
That leads us to freedom.
2. No peaceful hour can we enjoy,
Where servitude prevails,
We have been left in aching state,
That world has never seen.

3. Let us enjoy thy blessedness,
As children of thy make,
Let us realise your godliness,
For life and liberty.
4. Make us enjoy thy peaceful grace,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road,
That leads us to our goal. A-men.
(Wachuku Abengowe)

23

NATIONAL QUISLING.

(*Tune:— Revive Thy Work, O Lord.*)

1. Oh, natal motherland,
Oh, how your heart bewails.
Bereft, of vineyards and freedom,
Kissed and betrayed to dust.
2. Oh, quislings you are doomed,
This earth is now your doom,
Do not forget God is not dead,
Nor guarded in a tomb.
3. Our country's Judases,
Ye have betrayed our land,
In exchange for few sovereigns,
But lo, your doom is sealed.
4. God of Africa judge,
The existence of quislings,
And reward them accordingly,
And save us from their claws.
A-men.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

24

PROUD LAND.

(Tune:— *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*)

1. Well, may I sing of the proud land,
That ruled foremost the rest of the world,
Our loveliest pride will go to thee,
God's Africa of memory.
2. You ruled before the earth was old,
And proved to all the world at large,
That you can rule but not dominate,
For liberty must reign supreme.
3. We sing the praise of Africa,
For all the glories that you have won,
Our cheers can drive a gloomy day,
And sweeten every bitter cup.
4. You make the coward spirit brave,
And nerve the feeble arm for fight:
You take all terror from the grave,
And gild the bed of death with light.

A-men.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

25

GOD IS GOOD.

(Tune:— *Yes God Is Good.*)

1. Yes, God is good in earth and sky,
From ocean depths and spreading wood,
Ten thousand voices seem to cry;
God made us all and God is good.
2. I hear it in the rushing breeze:
The hills that have for ages stood,
The echoing sky and roaring seas,
All swell the chorus : God is good.

3. Yes, God is good, all creatures say,
By God's own hand with speech endued;
And man, in louder notes of praise,
Should sing for joy that God is good.
4. For all thy gifts, we bless thee, Lord,
But chiefly for our daily food:
Thy pardoning grace, Thy quickening word:
These prompt our song, that God is good.
A-men.

26

THE DAWN

(*Tune:— For Ever With The Lord.*)

1. The promised time is dawn,
That mankind must be saved,
From debris of social badness,
To reach eternity, Embrace the saving truth,
And let it lead you on,
How bad the path, we're bound to win,
Through the National Church.
2. The dawn approaches fast,
I see it very near,
At times to faith's foreseeing eyes,
The golden dawn appears!
Let not my spirit faint,
To enjoy that paradise,
The bright inheritance of ours,
One 'loved Nigeria.
3. Yet clouds will intervene,
And all my prospect flies,
The choral harmonies of peace,
Earh's babe-tongues o'er come,

The dawn of liberty,
Our shout of victory,
May we all live to see the dawn,
Of one free Nigeria. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

27

COMFORT

(Tune: Lord, Thy Word Abideth)

1. Lord Thy word abideth,
And our footsteps guideth,
Who its truth believeth,
Light and joy receiveth.
2. When our foes are near us,
Then Thy word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
Message of salvation.
3. When the storms are o'er us,
And dark clouds before us,
Then its light directeth,
And our way protecteth.
4. Word of mercy giving,
Succour to the living,
Word of life supplying,
Comfort to the dying. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

RESTORE PEACE.

(Tune:— Peace Perfect Peace.)

1. O Africa,
For you our fathers died,
Let all their sufferings be not cast in vain.
2. They died the death,
To restore liberty
And secure pleasure for their descendants.
3. The fight goes on,
And now we're taking part,
Let us achieve the success for mankind.
4. O Africa,
May all our blood secure,
Peace, liberty and freedom for mankind.

A-men.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

FAITH.

(Tune:— God Moves In A Mysterious Way)

1. God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.
2. Deep in unfathomable mines,
Of never failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs,
And walks his sovereign will.

3. Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread,
Are big with mercy, and shall break,
In blessing on your head.
 4. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face.
 5. His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour,
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.
 6. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His works in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And He will make it plain. Amen.
- (William Cowper)

30

PATRIOTISM

(*Tune: My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less.*)

1. Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
"This is my own, my nativeland"
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned,
As home his footsteps he hath turned,
From wandering on a foreign strand,
To the vile dust from whence he sprung.
 2. If such there breathe, go, mark him well,
For him no minstrel raptures swell,
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim,
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,
And doubly dying, shall go down,
Unwept, unhonoured and unsung. Amen.
- (Sir Walter Scott)

THINKING

(Tune:— Thine For Ever, God Of Love)

1. Never think you are beaten,
If you think surely you are,
If you like to win but think not,
It's almost a cinch you won't.
2. If you think you'll lose you're lost:
For out in the world we find,
Success begins with one's will:
It's all in the state of mind.
3. Never think you are out classed:
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself,
You can ever win a prize.
4. Life's battle don't always go,
To the stronger faster man;
Soon or late the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can. A-men

ETERNITY.

(Tune:— Jesu, Lover Of My Soul)

1. Our desire is nothing else,
But to find succour in Thee;
While our days are rolling past,
While our heads are full of grey;
May we think of Thee always,
Till the storm of life is past,
Safe into that success lead,
May we realise thy goodness.

2. Other refuge we have none,
 Hang our helpless hope on Thee,
 Leave, ah leave us not alone,
 Still support and comfort us,
 All our trust on Thee is stay'd
 Only help from Thee we have,
 Protect our defenceless lives,
 And deliver us from sin.
 3. Blessed be Thy holy name,
 More than all in Thee we find,
 Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
 Make and keep us pure within,
 Liberty fountain thou art.
 Freely let us drink of Thee,
 Weary, want of strength we are,
 Raise us to eternity. Amen.
- (Wachuku Abengowe)

33

DETERMINATION

(*Tune:—Be Present At Our Table Lord*)

1. The way O Lord is very rough,
 However dark I'm bound to reach,
 Lead me by thine almighty hand,
 Choose out the path for me to go.
2. Smooth let it be or very rough,
 It will be still the best for me,
 Winding or straight I must be there,
 Right onward to the paradise
3. The kingdom that I seek is near,
 It's thine; so let the way be clear,
 That leads to that my heart desire,
 Else I must surely go astray.

4. Not mine, not mine, the choice is thine,
All things both great and small are thine,
Be thou my guide, my strength, my all,
My wisdom and my every all. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe.)

34

JESUS'S PRAISE

(*Tune: Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee.*)

1. Afric the very thought of Thee,
With sweetness fills the breast:
But sweeter far Thy freedom see,
And in Thy presence rest.
2. O hope of our forefathers hearts,
The land of all the good,
To those who seek, how good thou art,
But what to those who find?
3. Ah, this no tongue can utter; this
No mortal page can show,
Africa's kindness what it is,
None, but His loved ones know.
4. Our country only joy be Thou,
As Thou our prize will be,
Afric be Thou our glory now,
And through eternity. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

35

LOVE

(*Tune: Hark My Soul, It Is The Lord.*)

1. Can a woman's tender care,
Cease towards the child she bare?
Yes, she may forgetful be,
Yet will I remember you.

2. Mine is an unchanging love,
Higher than the heights above,
Deeper than the depths beneath,
Free and faithful, strong as death.
3. Thou shalt see liberty soon,
When the work of grace is done,
Freedom cannot descend low,
Without sacrifice and pain.
4. But it is my chief complaint,
That patriotism is faint,
Yet I want to love and serve,
Give me grace to love and serve. A-men.

36

PROTECT NIGERIA.

(*Tune :— God Save Our Gracious King.*)

1. O God of Africa,
Stretch forth Thy glorious hand,
Protect Niger,
Beautiful, rich, enslaved,
And striving to be free,
From any imperial rule,
Under the sun.
2. O Thou the God of gods,
Thou King of all the kings,
Beneath the sun,
Bless all the inhabitants,
And give them zeal to work,
So that we may be free,
In this our land.

3. Great Father of us all,
On Thee Thy children call,
Save and defend,
May we be one in Thee,
Knit as one family,
One for eternity,
World without end. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe.)

37

SERVICE

(Tune: Take My Life And Let It Be.)

1. Take my hands, and let them move,
At the impulse of Thy love,
Take my feet, and let them be,
Swift and dutiful for Thee.
2. Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I with-hold,
Take my intellect and use,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart it is thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.
4. Take my love; my Lord, I pour,
At Thy feet its treasured store,
Take myself and I will be,
Ever, only, all, for Thee. Amen.

i. The call for freedom is heard,
Ye crusaders of peace;
Brass-shine your freedom weapons,
We must not fight in vain.
From now we must gain peace,
If we really mean to win,
We must fight till we have seen
That every foe is fled.

2. The struggle still continues,
Amidst all ill-wishes,
The road to freedom is rough.
But we must reach the goal,
We cannot be at rest,
If we really mean to win,
We must push till we have seen,
Paradise in our midst.

3. Comrades, let us not loose hope,
The strife will not be long;
Today; the fight for freedom,
The next our victory.
To Thee, the God of gods,
All praise and glory be,
And when paradise is won,
Hurrah shall be our shout. A-men
(Wachuku Abengowe)

THE SICK

(Tune:—To Thy Temple I Repair)

1. Thou whom the sick and dying,
Ever came, nor came in vain,
Still with healing word reply,
To the wearied cry of pain.
2. The weary, sick, and dying,
Need a brother's, sister's care,
On thy higher help reply,
May we now their burden share.
3. May each child of thine agree,
Agree both in heart and hand,
All the law of love fulfil,
Every comfort to impart.
4. May sickness, sin, agony,
To Thy healing virtue yield,
Till the sick, sad, in gladness,
Rescued, ransom'd cleans'd and healed. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

AFTER FREEDOM

(Tune:—Now The Day Is Over,)

1. When we win our freedom,
For our blessed land,
Then liberty an' peace,
Shall reign through mankind.
2. Freedom of vocal chord,
Will prevail in us,
Freedom to worship God,
Will for ever live.

3. Freedom from all our fears,
Freedom from all wants,
Freedom to rule ourselves,
And to stand upright.
4. May all our descendants,
Feel proud of their sires;
For having left behind,
Liberty an' peace. A-men

(William Ernest Henley)

41

SONG OF PRAISE.

(Tune:— *Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven*)

1. Praise my soul the king of heaven
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ranson'd heal'd, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise shall sing?
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise the everlasting king.
2. Praise Him for His grace and favour,
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.
3. Father-like He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes,
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Widely as His mercy flows.

4. "Angels" help us to adore Him,
Ye behold Him face to face,
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him, Praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace. A-men

42

GOD OF SEA.

(Tune:— *My God And Father, While I Stray.*)

1. Almighty Father hear our cry,
As o'er the trackless deep we roam;
Be thou our haven ever nigh,
On homeless sea,
On homeless sea, On homeless sea,
Be thou our haven ever nigh,
On homeless sea.
2. O gracious God, Beneath whose power,
The ocean woke to life and light,
Command thy blessing in this hour,
Thy quickening might,
Thy quickening might, Thy quickening might,
Command Thy blessing in this hour,
Thy quickening might.
3. Great Africa, Jehovah, Thee
We love, we worship, we adore,
Our refuge on time's changeful sea,
Our joy on earth,
Eternal shore, Eternal shore,
Our refuge on time's changeful sea,
Eternal shore. A-men.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

THANKS GIVING.

(Tune:— Now Thank We All Our God.)

1. Now thank we all our God,
 With heart and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things hath done,
 In whom His world rejoices,
 Who from our mothers' arms,
 Hath bless'd us on our way,
 With countless gifts of love,
 And still is ours today.
2. Oh may this bounteous God,
 Through all our life be near us,
 With every joyful heart
 And blessed peace to cheer us,
 And keep us in His grace,
 And guide us when perplexed,
 And free us from all ills,
 In this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God,
 The maker now be given,
 And all elected ones,
 Supreme in highest heaven,
 The one eternal God,
 Whom earth and heaven adore,
 For thus it was is now,
 And shall be ever more. A-men

MORNING HYMN.

(Tune:— Holy Father Hear Me.)

1. As I rise this morning,
Thou art my defender,
Be thou ever near me,
Loving true, and tender.
2. Thou God of our Fathers,
Lord of life and glory,
Drive afflictions near me,
Till to dust I repair.
3. Maker of all mankind,
Who abiding in me,
All my need divinest,
Move me, draw me, win me.
4. Fountain of all goodness,
Come and leave me never,
Guide and save our children,
Only thine for ever. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

EVENING PRAISE.

(Tune:— At Even 'ere The Sun Was Set)

1. Forgive Lord God of Africa
The ill that I this day have done:
That with mankind, myself and Thee,
Before I sleep, at peace may be.

2. Oh may my soul on Thee repose,
And may sweet sleep my eye-lids close,
Sleep that shall me more vigorous make,
To serve my God when I awake.
 3. When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with Niger thoughts supply,
Let no ill dream disturb my rest,
Nor powers of darkness me molest.
 4. O Saviour God our woes dispel :
For some are sick, and some are sad,
And some have friends who give them pain,
Yet have not sought a friend in Thee.
 5. Thy touch has still its ancient power,
No word from Thee can fruitless fall,
Hear in the solemn evening hour,
And in Thy mercy protect us. Amen.
- (Wachuku Abengowe)

46

GREAT NIGER

(*Tune: O Jesus, I Have Promised*)

1. Ready to shield Nigeria,
To serve her to the end;
I must bear all her burdens,
My motherland and pride,
I shall not fear the battle,
For love I have for her,
Nor ever fail to shield her,
The land of my fathers.
2. O Niger I have promised,
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will :

- To love her is my duty,
And fight out liberty,
For all our succeeding race,
And mankind of our God.
3. Niger who art in slavery,
Must be redeemed by me,
To die for ones mothers land,
Is a pride in heaven,
Let liberity that was ours,
Return again and reign,
May I have grace to fight on,
And save my mother land. A-men,
(Wachuku Abengowe.)

47

PERSEVERANCE

(Tune : There's A Friend For Little.....)

1. It's my hope to serve the country,
How tough the way may be;
Thorny, rough, crooked, sandy,
Success I must achieve;
Perish all fond ambition,
I've sought, or hop'd, or known,
That will prolong the success,
For many years to come.
2. Let the world despise and leave me,
They've felt my struggle too :
Human looks deceive me;
Fresh courage I must take,
While success I shall have,
May pride heave in my heart,
I've won the glorious battle,
For God and fatherland.

3. I shall knock upon life's door,
It's heavy bolts and bars,
Though my flesh be weak and sore,
My face of ugly scars;
I'll not falter, nor give up,
The struggle must be endured,
Bear thorns and all sacrifice,
But count my purpose won. Amen.
(Wachuku Abengowe.)

48

LIBERATION

(Tune: *Come, Thou long-expected Jesus*)

1. In the beauty of the lilies,
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom,
That transfigured you and me.
2. As He died to make men holy,
Let us die to make men free,
And redeem mankind from bondage,
For our God is marching on.
3. Nations, now from God estranged,
Then shall see a glorious Light,
Night to day shall then be changed,
Heaven triumph in the sight.
4. Mighty God, Thine arm revealing,
Now our gracious cause maintain:
Bring the nations, help and heal them,
Make them subject to Thy reign. Amen.
(Wachuku Abengowe.)

COUNTRY PRIDE.

(Tune:— *Awake, my soul, and with the sun.*)

1. God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold,
Pride over all the icy land.
2. The tumult and the shouting dies,
The captains and the kings depart;
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
A humble and a contrite heart.
3. If drunk with sight of pride, we loose,
Wild tongues that have not in awe,
Such boasting as the British use,
Or lesser breeds without the law.
4. For heathen heart that puts her trust,
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not Thee to guard. A-men.

(Wachuku Abengowe.)

THE NIGER

(Tune :— *Sometimes, A Light Surprises.*)

1. God bless our dear old Niger.
With cliffs so bold and white,
Round which the angry billows
So vainly roar and fight;
God bless our sons and daughters,
And make them pure and brave,
By righteousness the nation,
O righteous Father, save !

2. God bless our land Nigeria
This cultured garden fair ;
With orchard, meadow, cornfield,
Lovely, beyond compare :
Adorn her with the beauties,
Of holiness and grace,
These fruits and flowers reflecting,
O God, Thy smiling face.
3. God bless our dear proud Nigeria,
With proud historic name,
And may she yet out rival,
Her thousand years of fame :
But chiefly make her steadfast,
In godliness and truth,
Wisdom of age uniting,
With all the zeal of youth.
4. God bless our dear Nigeria,
Brave, loyal, trusty folk :
Free from all chain of bondage,
Scorning each sinful yoke,
May rich and poor together,
Labour and love as one
A happy royal priest hood,
And so Thy will be done.
5. Dear land, may heaven defend Thee
God bless our native land,
Beside her in all danger,
Do Thou her guardian stand.
God bless our dear Nigeria,
And may she ever be.
Exalted midst the nations,
By faith, O God, in Thee. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

REALIZATION.

(Tune: Approach My Soul The Mercy Seat.)

1. Arise my soul, and sing for joy,
For God is good and great,
I once was blind, I once was sick,
God's words have made me whole.
2. Arise and live, down trodden man,
Why lay so long in sin?
Look down upon your feet today,
And see your chains had gone.
3. Lift up your eyes, and see the hills,
What else could hold you down?
Step out and walk up to the top,
And take your seat up there.
4. There was a time that I had thought,
That I was a bondman,
My only work was just to know,
That I have all the powers.
5. I tried to know and I have known,
I tried to do and did,
And now I am a child not slave,
God's wondrous work for Man!!
6. The power to free or to enslave,
Is all in my own hands,
No other being can enslave me,
When I set myself free.
7. The only power is power of God,
The only wisdom His,
There's n'other Being but God alone,
And He is "Our Father."
8. God home in you, man or woman,
Be reconciled with God,
Proclaim it to the world arround,
That freedom is now yours. Amen.

(T. K. Utchay)

PRAYERS

Prayers.

In Times Of Suppression.

O Almighty God, King of all things, and Governor of all things, whose power no creature is able to resist, to whom it belongeth justly to be merciful to Thy people: Save and deliver us, we humbly beseech Thee, from the hands of our enemies, abate their pride, assuage their malice, and confound their devices; that we, being armed with Thy defence, may be preserved ever more from all perils, to glorify Thee, who art the only giver of all victory; This we ask Thee to grant us now and for ever more. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe)

For Our Natural Rulers.

Almighty and everlasting God, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes and Kings; most heartily, we beseech Thee with Thy favour to behold our Natural Rulers and Leaders; and reinforce them with Thy Holy grace; that they may always incline to our will, and walk in Thy ways, Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts, grant them in health and wealth long to live: Strengthen them that they may vanquish and overcome all our enemies, and finally, to instil freedom in our land, world without end. Amen.

(Wachuku Abengowe).

Any Occasion.

O God, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive, receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of human nature, yet, let the pitifulness of Thy great mercy loose us; this we ask for the sake of Thy Holy name. Amen.
(Wachuku Abengowe)

For Peace,

O God of Africa, who art a strong tower of defence unto Thy servants against the face of their enemies: we yield Thee praise and thanksgiving for our deliverance from those great and apparent dangers where—with we are compassed: We acknowledge it Thy goodness that we are not delivered over as a prey unto them: beseeching Thee still to continue such Thy mercies towards us, that all the world may know That thou art our Saviour and mighty Deliverer, everlastingly. Amen.
(Wachuku Abengowe)

Our Creed.

I believe in One Supreme Being, God of Africa.
Author of the Universe, God of Goodness;
Who is All-powerful and is infinite in all perfections;
I believe in the equality of men before the Supreme Being,
In the right of all men and all nations to enjoy whatever is
by nature theirs,

In the basic human rights of life, liberty, and pursuit
of happiness; I believe in Justice, Freedom. Love, and
Truth, In the abolition of all forms of social evil;
In doing to others as I would want others to do unto me,
I believe in retributive Justice,
In everlasting happiness for the good
In the redemption of Africa from the hands of oppress-
sors, indigenous or alien;
I believe in the Holy Spirit within me, which is God,
In the Holy National Church of Nigeria and the Cameroons,
In the communion and association of good leaders
and good followers;
In the resurrection of man from sin unto righteousness,
In the forgiveness of one another's faults,
And in life everlasting.

Amen.

The African Prayer.

Our country, which art on Earth,
Honoured be thy name,
Thy freedom come, thy work be done abroad,
As it is done at home,
Give us each day the vision clean,
And forgive us our foolishness,
As we forgive them that daily try to fool us,
And lead us not into submission,
But deliver us from trickery,
For thine will be freedom,
Due power and due glory,
For ever and ever.

Amen.

The National Prayer.

O Almighty and everlasting God of the universe, God of Africa, God of our fathers, Give ear to the prayers of Thy children who assemble here on behalf of ourselves and our country to implore Thee to give us freedom, freedom to worship Thee according to the dictates of our conscience, freedom from foreign domination, and freedom to own and enjoy this portion of Thy earth which Thou hast, without a mistake allocated to us. This we ask of Thee through Thy Holy name
Amen.

(*Jumike Iwunna*)

A Prayer To Overpower Oppressors.

Arise, O God of Africa, arise for the enemies of freedom are at the door. Prove to us Thy children that Thou art our God indeed by putting all enemies of our freedom into confusion, and turn their prayers into sin.

Thou wilt fight for us O God so that when the enemies of freedom will invoke the power of man-made law to suppress us and to enslave us, Thou mayest overpower and humiliate them so that we Thy children may win the fight in Thy name. Amen.

(*Jumike Iwunna*).

A Prayer For Our National Leaders.

Let them grow from strength to strength O God, those national leaders who strive to hasten our freedom and deliver them from the snares of the national enemies. Bless and preserve O God of Africa our national leaders, the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, and all nationalistic organisations, so that all may live to see this country freed from imperialistic rule. Amen.

Jamike Iwunna.

Litany of the Nationalists.

From foreign rule and domination,

God of Freedom deliver us.

From the angry jaws of imperialism,

God of Freedom deliver us.

From oppressions, suppressions and exploitations,

God of Freedom deliver us.

From the hands of those who delight in persecuting and prosecuting nationalists,

God of Freedom deliver us.

From the conversion of our country into a police state,

God of Freedom deliver us.

From the evil plans of the strangers at our door,

God of Freedom deliver us.

From any form of fear that keeps us in perpetual servitude,

God of Freedom deliver us.

On the day when we shall rise against the common enemy,

God of Freedom deliver us.

And from the plans of traitors and national quislings,

God of Freedom deliver us.

And lead us not into submission, But deliver us from trickery. Amen.

Jamike Iwunna.

Supplements

I

EVERYWHERE THERE MUST BE FREEDOM.

(Tune: All The Way Long It Is Jesus)

1. Trumpets of freedom sound in Africa,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
This is the message from Nigeria,
Everywhere there must be freedom,

Chorus:—

Freedom, Freedom,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Freedom, Freedom,
Everywhere there must be freedom.

2. We're bound to enjoy our father's land,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Nigeria must no more be enslaved,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
3. Freedom of speech, Freedom of press,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Freedom for Churches, Freedom for Schools,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
4. Freedom in Trading and in farming,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Freedom in Travelling and in living,
Everywhere there must be freedom.
5. Freedom for husband and for his wife,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Freedom for parents and their children,
Everywhere there must be freedom,

6. Freedom for Women, Freedom for Men,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Freedom for Africans everywhere,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
7. Freedom for workers and in Offices,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Freedom for me, and freedom for you.
Everywhere there must be freedom,
8. Nigeria first Nigeria all the time,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Freedom is birthright we must be free,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
9. Friends carry this message far and wide,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
God of Africa speaks to all nations,
Everywhere there must be freedom,
Amen.

J. N. B. Egbutche

2

(Tune: Nearer My God To Thee)

1. Nearer to our freedom,
We are marching on
Though the road is steep and deep
We are marching on
No power can stop our right
Bombs and bullets may rain
No more can we retreat
We are marching on.

2. God of Africa, rise !
We are marching on,
Freedom is our Watchword,
We are marching on,
Thousands may lay asleep,
Millions may swarm the field,
We must our freedom win,
We are marching on.
3. Quisillings may bark and bite,
We are marching on,
Alien powers must fail,
We are marching on,
All men to battle front,
Women to keep home guard,
Till our freedom we win,
We are marching on.
4. Our Fathers' land must free,
We are marching on,
Sleeping Africa, wake !
We are marching on,
Leaders never retreat,
Though dark may be the way,
No more fear, no more dread,
We are marching on.
5. Freedom must be our pride,
We are marching on,
Alien rule must be crushed,
We are marching on,
This land is ours by right,
'Tis our portion on earth,
Fight manfully onward,
We are marching on.

6. Why should we have back seat,
In our fathers' land,
Cowards are always Spies,
In their fathers' land,
Wake ye Africans wake,
Hear Freedom trumpet call,
God of African leads,
We are marching on. Amen.
(J. N. B. Egbutcheh)

3

SONG OF GRIEF.

(*Tune: At Eve Ere The Sun Was Set*)

1. All songs of grief all thoughts of woe,
Have made us feel our God is nigh,
And soon will put all those to flight,
Who have turned our land to their own.
2. But songs of grief and thoughts of woe,
Continue for our daily cup,
Unless we muster strong and fight,
Bible to bible and sword to sword.
3. If we for our country should die,
Who would say in vain we have died,
Our names for all ages shall live,
For our sons and daughters to sing.
4. God of Africa pray arise,
This is the hour we need Thee most,
When all our ways are strewn with thorns,
Thou alone is our hope and strength.
5. There is a gale so big ahead
But with Thy help we hope to land,
On land of freedom now in sight,
God of our fathers give us strength.
Amen.

(J. N. B. Egbutcheh)

ALL HAIL, DAWN OF FREEDOM !

(Tune: Christ Is Our Corner Stone.)

1. All hail, oh dawn of freedom,
All hail, oh dawn of peace,
Liberty is our right,
In our own given land,
God of Africa is our shield,
Our salvation is in His hand.
2. Men of Africa arise,
Take up Thy sword of right,
Why should we have back seat,
In our own given land,
We have right to claim our own right,
In our portioned land on earth.
3. Rejoice men of Africa,
And be exceedingly glad,
For men who were made low,
Are highly exalted now,
They who walk in the vale of death,
Arising now forever more.
4. Welcome, dawn of Africa !
Thy sword is truth and love,
Unity is your strength,
Till our freedom we win,
Africa's light shall on earth shine,
To all people that dwell on earth.
5. Wake up sleeping Africans,
Wake up men and women,
This is your new era,
God of Africa reigns,
Whether dying, whether living,
Crown of Freedom shall be our goal.

Amen.

(S. M. Juwe.)

5

MEN OF AFRICA ARISE

(Tune: *Revive Thy Work Oh Lord.*)

1. Men of Africa arise,
Take up Thy sword of right,
God of Africa is Thy shield,
"Go on, no fear in front."
2. Fighting on for freedom,
Thy sword unsheathed be, till
Freedom for Africa we win,
Praise God of Africa.
3. Freedom your right by birth,
God of Africa free,
As God is free so His people,
Shall be free in their land.
4. Afric's sun has risen,
See the gleams of its light,
A day Star shines on Africa,
Leading men to freedom.
5. Why should we not be bold,
In our own giving land,
Oh God of Africa arise,
And set Thine people free.
6. Africans marching on,
To the freedom way go,
Whether dying, whether living,
Freedom shall be our goal.
7. In Freedom Road, faint not,
Sorrow or joy may come,
There may be death,
There may be life,
Till our freedom we win. Amen.

(S. M. Juwe.)

GLORIOUS AFRICA.

(Tune: Sweet Belle Marhona.)

1. Land of palm and glowing sun,
Land of slavery menace,
Thine they become from afar,
Glorious Africa.

Chorus: Fascinating Africa,
Captivating Africa,
God shall bless Thy future state,
Glorious Africa.

2. How they sumptuous glamour drew,
Stalwart men to dream and do,
To Thine ancient faith be true,
Wondrous Africa.
3. From the Niger to Lake Chad,
Rolling upland richly clad,
Show welcoming gay and glad,
Glorious Nigeria.
4. Precious jewel bright and clean,
Set by God to shine serene,
Thou shalt be what Thou hast been,
Wondrous Nigeria,
5. Hail the splendour of Thy face,
Hail Thy coming breed and race,
Hail, we hail Thee from afar,
Glorious Africa.
6. As we tread thence open roads,
Be our glory and our good,
All the pain, the dread past, showed
Wondrous Africa. Amen.

(Mrs M. U. Ekpo.)

HEAVENLY LIGHT.

(*Tune: Holy Spirit. Faithful Guide.*)

1. Light from on high fall on me,
 Descend Thou into my heart,
 And radiate from my centre,
 Throwing Thy beams around my world,
 Put all darkness into flight,
 Change all fears and all my doubts,
 Into power and wisdom great,
 For service unto mankind.
2. Make my soul Thy dwelling place,
 And my heart Thy cherished Throne,
 From that sacred seat on Earth,
 Pour Thou forth an endless gleam,
 Cast Thy rays across the seas,
 Let some rest on distant crags,
 Shoot some down abyss below,
 Melting all uncertainties.
3. Let Thy throne on earth below,
 Keep an everlasting link,
 With Thy home in heaven above,
 Making son and Father one,
 Strike and melt the stony hearts,
 Purge them with Thy sacred flame,
 Heal the broken feeble man,
 With the balm from heaven above.
4. Wondrous flash that comes from God,
 Thou hast chosen me for home,
 Keep me continually Thine,
 Own me that I may own Thee,
 Move my hands in all I do,
 Guide my footsteps where'er I go,
 Direct me in what I say,
 Make me move at Thine own will. Amen.

(T. K. Uichay.)

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